#### THE WEST COLUMBIA BULLETIN

(Continued from front)

fondest wish - God.

Hunger and thirst are not quenched with candy and soda. When hunger pangs strike and the throat is parched, your body is crying out for protein, carbohydrates, and water, but many people turn to junk food for relief. Junk food fills the belly, but it does not nourish the body. These foods turn the body into a flabby, unhealthy mess.

Many people try to satisfy the soul's hunger for God with junk food religion. They look for churches that offers the gaudiest music, the most exciting packaging, and the most sugar-frosted doctrines. They do not want truth that will save their soul (John 8:32), they want empty-calorie religion that will just make them feel full. But, the junk religion diet will kill them spiritually just as surely as a diet of candy bars and cola will kill their body. Millions of people flock to their spiritual candy machine every Sunday and load up on sugar bomb sermons that scarcely mention the Bible. Their diet is more carnal than spiritual, and it is killing them.

We need good food in order to live. Peter said that we need to drink deeply of the pure milk of the word that we may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). Pure milk is the most basic and nutritious food. If it is watered down, or mixed with sugar, its nutritional power is diminished. Babies that are fed mother's milk grow strong and healthy, but babies who are fed sugar water grow sickly and weak. People who turn to God's word and feast on the pure milk that it gives them soon grow strong and they can move on to strong meat. Soon they are strong enough to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).

Your heart is hungry for righteousness. Do not deny yourself the truth of God's word.

### **Church of Christ**

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Visit Our Website For Free Bible Study Material:

## Schedule Of Services...

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 9:50 a.m.
Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday:
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.



June 7, 2020

### When You Hunger And Thirst For Righteousness

David Weaks

Hunger and thirst are two powerful instincts of human nature which are essential for your survival. If you never felt hunger you would never eat and you would die. If you never felt thirst, you would never drink water and you would die. The Bible tells us that we must hunger and thirst for righteousness, and if we do, we will be filled (Matthew 5:6).

Hunger and thirst are powerful urges that force us into action. Physical hunger and thirst in the body cannot be ignored for long. Dieters yo-yo back and forth between fat to thin for this very reason. God designed us to get energy from food, and He gave us hunger and thirst to tell us when it is time to refuel. Dieters cannot

successfully ignore their instinctive need for food for long. After the diet is over, and the weight is lost, it isn't long until hunger reasserts itself, and soon the dieter is up to his elbows in a large cheese pizza.

Neither can spiritual hunger be ignored forever. Most people are starving to death spiritually, but they ignore the signals their heart is sending them. Rather than satisfy their soul's needs with Bible study and worship, they turn to drugs, alcohol, and adultery. The soul pants for God (Psalm 42:1), and nothing else can satisfy its yearnings. People who feel "empty inside" need the word of God, but like the most disillusioned and stubborn dieter, they deny the heart's

(Continued on last page)

# WOULD JESUS WIN IN NOVEMBER?

David Weaks

This is an election year, and in November, we will be choosing a president. Will it be the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, or will it be a newcomer? Only time will tell. Surely, you have mostly made up your mind by now who will get your vote.

I can't help but wonder, in every election year: How would Jesus do in the election? Most people would say: "Jesus would win in a landslide! What's the matter with you that you would even ask?" I am not so sure, not anymore. If Jesus ran for office it would be on a platform that many would find distasteful.

Jesus would campaign for respect for authority. His ads would say: "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth..." (Matthew 28:18). Paul wrote that Jesus Christ is head over all things to His church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). In another place Paul said that every knee shall bow to Jesus (Philippians 2:10), and John called Him King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation

17:14). How would voters today feel about a candidate who stated in campaign speeches that every man should submit himself to God's will? How many would cast their vote for the Lord to have all authority over their lives? It's a whole lot easier when it is just a slogan, but it is a lot harder to actually adopt the practice of submitting to Jesus' authority in everything.

Jesus would campaign against sin. Anti-sin speech is not too popular today. The mantra of our age seems to be: "If it feels good, do it." In the minds of many people there is very little that is wrong unless it hurts other people. In an odd twist, some people will only condemn those who condemn sin. How would Jesus poll in such an environment? We have Jesus on record saying: "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast if from you; for it is more profitable that one of your members perish than for your whole body to be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:30). Further, Jesus can be heard to say: "But

whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). His apostle Paul said: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

How many votes would Jesus lose by telling men and women that they are sinners?

Jesus would campaign that marriage is between a man and a woman. We know that this would be Jesus' platform because He already said it: "And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said. 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:4-5). His apostle Paul said of homosexuality that it is "vile passions" and is "against nature" (Romans 1:26-27). In another place Paul said: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites," (1 Corinthians 6:9). This position would surely have Jesus branded

as a bigot and a homophobe and would cost him many votes.

Jesus would call on people to obey the gospel. I know that Jesus would call on men and women at every campaign stop to obey the gospel, because we have Him on record in His own words doing that very thing. He preached the following words: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved: but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). On another occasion. Jesus called on his followers to "Come to Me. all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My voke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). It's the "take my yoke upon you" part that I'm afraid would cost Jesus the most votes. Many people don't like hearing that in order to be a Christian you must actually do what the Lord says.

Of course, the Lord will never run for a public office, but He is asking for followers. The Lord calls upon us all to come to Him and take His yoke upon us. That means, we must believe and do whatever He says. Will you cast your vote with the Lord?